



2020 Drinking Water Quality Report



**City of Las Vegas'
Report on the Water We Drink**



Important Information About Your Drinking Water

What is this Report?

The City is delighted to present this year's Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report will provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of 2020's water quality. We are committed to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

What We Do

The water treatment division provides consistent and adequate drinking water in an open, responsible and compliant manner at marginal cost. The City of Las Vegas water system has approximately 699 commercial & 5,759 residential accounts, providing water for over 13,000 customers and tens of thousands of visitors within the City limits and San Miguel County.

Your Water is Safe

Our water exceeds standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and all contaminants detected were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

Description of the water treatment process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

Español

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

What is in my water?

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water source is primarily surface water acquired from the Gallinas River and stored in Peterson, Storrie and Bradner. No groundwater was used for drinking water in 2020.

Why are there Contaminants in Drinking Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. Presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water (tap and bottled water) sources include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, which may include radioactive materials, and substances left behind from human and animal activity.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, can come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. *Inorganic contaminants*, such as fluoride, arsenic and other salts and metals, which do not include carbon, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. *Pesticides and herbicides contaminants* may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. *Organic Chemical contaminants* include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals such as chlorine, trihalomethanes, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. *Radioactive contaminants*, such as uranium and radium, which can be naturally occurring, a result of oil and gas production or a by-product of mining. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.





More Information

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and household plumbing. City of Las Vegas is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, yet cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other Health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Source water assessment availability

More information about contaminants, testing methods, potential health concerns and steps you can take to minimize exposure may be obtained by contacting EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or by visiting their website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

More information on the City of Las Vegas Public Water Supply can be obtained online at www.dww.water.nm.env.nm.gov or obtaining a copy of the Source Water Assessment conducted by contacting David Torres at (505) 841-5206 or david.torres@state.nm.us or by calling the Utilities Department at (505) 454-3832.

How Can I get Involved?

The Las Vegas City Council meets twice a month. Utility Advisory Committee meets once a month. Information on dates and times is available through the City Clerk's Office, who can be reached at (505) 454-1401 or online at www.lasvegasnm.gov. Consider volunteering with local watershed groups, which can be found on EPA's Adopt a Watershed network.

Sampling Results

Important Definitions

In the following tables you will find terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar to you, to help you better understand these terms, we have provided these definitions.

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	µg/L	number of micrograms of a substance in one liter of water
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment technology.	ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.	ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements or other requirements which a water system must follow.	pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
Variances & Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.	mrem /yr	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.	NA	not applicable
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level	ND	not detected
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated	NR	monitoring not required, but recommended

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table on the next page lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of our health. A few naturally occurring minerals could actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.



Sampling Results

Water Quality Data Table

Unless otherwise noted the data in this table was completed during the 2020 calendar year. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year or our public water system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect in Your Water & LRAA	Range	Sample Date	Violation (yes/no)	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
Chlorine	4	4	1.1	0.5-1.1	2020	No	Additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NA	60	34	12.9-56.6	2020	No	By-product of water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	NA	80	70	24-86.2	2020	No	By-product of water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	2	2	0.068	0.068-0.068	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	0.50	0.50-0.50	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	99%	NA	2020	No	Soil Runoff
99% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.802. Any measurement in excess of 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state							
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	6.9	2.2-6.9	2018	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.93	0.93-0.93	2018	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	7	7-7	2018	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Water Quality Table

Lead and Copper

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL (yes/no)	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.036	2020	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.6	2020	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems

Name	MCL	Range Low	Range High
Additional Monitoring UCMR4			
HAA5 (ug/L)	NA	13	57.5
HAA6Br (ug/L)	NA	2.82	5.44
HAA9 (ug/L)	NA	15.82	62.94
Manganese	0.4	ND	1.1

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways.

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly: take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Violations

Water Facts

70% of the human brain is water

1,900 gallons of water is required for a day's food per person

1.7% of the world's water is frozen (for now) and currently unusable

Water can dissolve more substances than any other liquid including sulfuric acid.

2020 Violation Information

None to report.

2021 Violation Information

Our water system recently violated a drinking water regulation. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to maintain a chlorine residual of at least 0.2 ppm entering the distribution system. Our disinfection requirement was not met in April, 2021.

The Endress Hauser data logger did not store chlorine data for 8 hours and 35 minutes on April 1st and 5 hours on April 2nd when power was lost to the data logger.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Chlorine levels in your water are important in ensuring safe water to all our customers. **Chlorine is added to the water to inactivate bacteria that may be present. Lack of adequate disinfectant may cause the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.** These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. Tests taken during this time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the drinking water system. Chlorine Residual samples were taken out in the system nine times on the 2nd and 3rd of April with a range of 0.57 to 1.64 ppm.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.

What is being done?

Uninterrupted power supplies are being replaced to ensure continuous power supply and new memory cards have been installed. When residual reaches 0.5 ppm the pumps stopped sending water to the distribution system. Staff have been reminded to obtain specific approval from the Treatment Plant Manager prior to reactivation.

More Information

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791

Water Conservation Tips

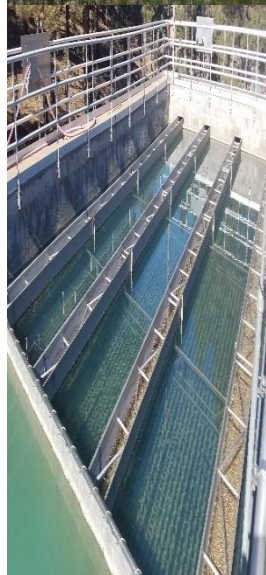
Conservation of our drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect the community's drinking water supply in several ways, including: Watering plants only when necessary.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered.
- Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next months water bill.
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public distribution system that may cause contamination of pollution to enter the system. WE are responsible for enforcing cross connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us to that we can discuss the issue, and if needed survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional sources of water on the property
- Decorative Pond
- Watering Trough





City of Las Vegas

Utility Service Department

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lasvegasnm.gov

THANK YOU!

The City of Las Vegas' Water Treatment Division would like to thank the Community for their efforts to conserve our precious water resources.

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